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The Congressman, who from 1991 to 1995, served as Chairman of the CBC Task Force on Haiti, is applauding other current actions being taken by the CBC: A demand for a meeting with President Bush; a CBC Delegation trip on Haiti on Friday, February 27th; a demand for a second meeting with CIA and U.S. State Department representatives; and united actions with students and other Haitian support groups.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 19, 2004.

Hon. COLIN POWELL,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: I am disturbed by the failure of your office to take immediate steps to stop the mass murder in Haiti. Haiti is on the brink of civil war and the Bush Administration stands in the shadows waiting for the destruction of Aristide.

I call on you and the Bush Administration to take immediate steps to defend the democratically elected government of Haiti. Advisory from the United States must be dispatched at once to reinforce the police in Haiti and restore law and order.

History will hold the United States accountable for the situation in Haiti! Years of hostile U.S. policy with regard to Haiti has brought about the current political crisis and deteriorating economic and social conditions there. In addition to placing an economic stranglehold on Haiti the Bush Administration has emboldened the political opposition in its quest to topple the democratically elected President of Haiti. President Aristide must be allowed to serve out the remainder of his term without interference from the United States. There must be no regime change in Haiti! President Aristide was democratically elected by the people of Haiti and the United States is obligated to respect the will of the Haitian people.

The United States and the international community must act in collaboration to resolve the political impasse in Haiti. The United Nations must begin meeting immediately in order to prepare for a long-term peaceful resolution to Haiti's political and economic situation. Immediate action must begin now to avert more violence and mass exodus of Haitians. The French are considering sending peacekeepers and the Canadians have offered nearly \$1 million in medical and food aid. The United States can not shirk its responsibility to the Haitian people. The U.S. must cooperate with the international community to restore law and order and provide humanitarian aid to Haiti now! Your lack of resolve in discouraging anarchy and restoring democracy in Haiti is unconscionable.

What is the Administration waiting for? How many more Haitians must die before the international community led by the United States takes the necessary steps to guarantee the maintenance of democracy in Haiti. Send police advisors to restore democracy in Haiti now!

MAJOR R. OWENS,
Member of Congress.

The important thing is why are we so reluctant to protect the democratically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti? What has Aristide done wrong? Why do we continually hear that Aristide is no better than the thugs and killers and drug dealers who are opposed to him? Why

do we continually hear that he is to blame? What are the charges against Jean-Bertrand Aristide? Does he build palaces like Saddam Hussein all over the place using the money of the taxpayers of Haiti in a profligate manner? Is he himself in some way a debaucher? Has he traveled around the world and shopped and spent the money of his government? What are the charges against Jean-Bertrand Aristide? Why is he considered to be equal with the thugs and the drug dealers and killers who are now forming the opposition against him?

The truth of the matter is Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected by the people of Haiti not once, but twice. They seem to lose sight of the chronology. Aristide was elected in 1991. The Army of Haiti deposed him. He was driven out of the country. He spent a large amount of time here in Washington in an apartment while he was exiled.

We finally convinced President Clinton to use armed intervention to restore the Government of Haiti. Aristide went back to Haiti, and although he had spent 3 years away from his government and had only 2 remaining, our government says, well, you ought to just only serve out your remaining 2 years, do not stay any longer. He complied with that. This is a man who is not obstinate or stubborn. He complied. He stepped down after 2 years, and another President took over, Mr. Preval, for 5 years, and then Aristide was reelected overwhelmingly after Mr. Preval had finished his 5 years.

Now we have an orderly transition in Haiti for the first time in history, orderly transition under the Constitution of Haiti. What is Aristide guilty of? If he has obeyed, like George Washington as a leader, very popular, he could have gotten a mandate from the people to stay in for life and all these kinds of things dictators do. He has not done that. We have not accused Aristide of having weapons of mass destruction. So why are we equating Aristide with the opposition, a band of rebels and violent people who want to overthrow the government that is duly elected?

I tell you why. There is a band of families, some say 6, some say 10, a band of rich families who have run Haiti the last 100 years. The rich have always been able to pick the governments. They have always been able to control the governments through the army. Aristide disbanded the army, and he cannot be thrown out by an army. So they have thugs and killers and drug dealers organized to throw out Aristide so they can work their will on the people.

Aristide is a great man. He should not be left to a fate of assassination. Our government should act to protect this democratically elected Government of Haiti.

HAITI CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous

order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to rise to join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus for what I think is one of the more important presentations to this House and to our colleagues and to the Nation, and that is, what is the role of the most powerful democracy in the world if it is not to look just a few miles to the south to be able to engage with a long-standing ally, in fact an ally that stood shoulder to shoulder with the Founding Fathers of this Nation and bled on our behalf so that we might be free. Today we find ourselves standing alongside of our Haitian brothers and sisters seeking justice and freedom for them.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for his leadership and my many colleagues who have spent hours upon hours working to secure the freedom of the Haitians. As mentioned, those Members, from the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), working with all of us in our respective responsibilities, have stood for the cause of justice, but also for saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, this is no time for silence because silence will only render a death sentence to every Haitian who seeks freedom in this century.

I am saddened by the fact that it seems there are inner workings in the State Department and other places that, rather than promote the democratization and the existence of the democracy of Haiti, there seems to be an undermining of a duly elected democratic government. The meeting today, as called by the Congressional Black Caucus because of the emergency crisis in Haiti, first with the Secretary of State and Dr. Rice, was certainly a door opener, but it was clear that we needed to meet with the President of the United States. Tonight I thank the President for this meeting, and I hope that out of the meeting and what was presented to the President in seriousness and in the backdrop of the impending crisis and bloodshed in Haiti, in Port-au-Prince, that he will act now in the next 24 hours.

Mr. Speaker, we are only 650 miles away from Haiti off the coast of Florida. Right now in those waters is a boat of refugees, more expected to come. The Congressional Black Caucus, with its expertise, gave to the President the instructions, and it should not be viewed as dominance. It should be viewed as collaboration.

It is imperative that military assistance go to Haiti now because what the people in Port-au-Prince are facing is

an insurgence of violent thugs with guns and M-16s, while they are raising their hands and their fists and clubs and sticks. There will be bloodshed in the streets.

We need a humanitarian corps that will allow safe water and food to come in now. You can see the film all over the airwaves of the United States, mothers holding babies in their arms, banging on the gates of the United States Embassy which is safe by the 50 marines that are there.

Can we do more for the Haitians? It is imperative that we gain the moral high ground by talking to the Canadian officials, the French officials, CARICOM and our allies around the world to join us in stopping the bloodshed in Haiti.

It is important for the American people to understand that no action will create thousands and thousands and boatloads of Haitians coming to this shore for survival, and I know that the American people do not want to see the continued death of Haitians as they drown in the waters off the coast of Florida. That is what will occur.

In addition, what we need to do is to join in supporting the legislation of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) to provide temporary protective security for the Haitians that may be coming to this country. More importantly, we need also, Mr. Speaker, to reform the immigration laws that will allow those Haitians who are fleeing because of political persecution to come to these shores, as do their Cuban brothers and sisters. Mr. Speaker, we can do no less.

Mr. Aristide accepted the peace plan that was presented by the U.N. Security Council and the United States, but the opposition, the insurgents, have not. Why are we condemning a man that was elected democratically, stepped down, allowed a new President, has come back and has indicated that he will end his tenure in 2006? I hear tell that there is a proposal to select some random ministerial person in the government, some member of the judiciary, ex-member of the judiciary percolating in the Secretary of State's office or the Secretary of State or the State Department. Mr. Speaker, that will not work. That person has no base of support, and those who are supporting the President, President Aristide, will go into the streets. Insurgents will take over, and it will be immediate collapse.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now for us to be heard, the Congressional Black Caucus. This is a mercy plea. It is imperative that we save the lives of those there, military assistance now and humanitarian aid. We thank the President, and we expect and hope to hear from him and the administration within the next 24 hours.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert my full statement at this point in the RECORD.

"AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?" GENESIS 4:9

1. Perhaps one of the more thought-provoking questions in the Bible is that one asked by Cain: (a) Cain had killed his brother be-

cause God had accepted Abel's offering, but not his own—Gen 4:3–8; (b) when the Lord inquired concerning Abel, Cain's response was: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9).

The answer is, Mr. Speaker, "yes we are." They are our brothers and we must be their keepers. I rise this evening to once again revisit the escalating political crisis in Haiti. I, along with members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) met with President George Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and National Security Advisor Dr. Condoleezza Rice to discuss the immediate need for the establishment of a humanitarian zone with foresight in Haiti. I also want to mention the leadership of Ranking Members CHARLES RANGEL and JOHN CONYERS for re-emphasizing that this was an issue of life and death.

We stressed to President Bush that the United States must support democracy and that the rule of law is paramount. Instead of political ideologies, we need to preserve the innocent lives in the region where over 70 have been killed and dozens wounded to date. Violence, chaos, and anarchy cannot be allowed to oust the democratic government.

The deadly uprisings in this war-torn nation come at the hands of the same factions that ravaged Haiti several years ago. Reports show that two of the rebel leaders are the most notorious torturers of the death squads, having already earned a reputation of infamy in a massacre that took place before Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned to power.

Louis-Jodel Chamblain is a former military leader who once orchestrated the most recent coup d'etat in Haiti in 1991 with a brutal paramilitary group. Guy Phillippe, a charismatic former soldier and loyalist to President Aristide, fled Haiti 3 years ago in exile to the Dominican Republic to escape charges of drug-dealing and treason. Phillippe and Chamblain crossed the Dominican border back into Haiti a week ago to join their gang of former police and soldiers.

We cannot allow innocent Haitians to die at the hands of thugs who want to thwart the establishment of democracy. We hope that, after our meeting, the President will call for an affirmative plan to respond to the Opposition Party's rejection of peace proposals offered by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of American States (OAS). Our acquiescence and inaction will soon suggest support of the opposition; therefore, it is time that we acted to demonstrate our strong commitment to democracy, constitutional government, peace, and the rule of law.

Humanitarian aid and military assistance are critical needs for the Haitians given the threat that demonstrators may thwart the delivery of food and other relief items. There has already been a cry for assistance by President Aristide. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with only 4,000 police officers for 8 million citizens has formally requested humanitarian aid and security forces.

As we work with the government of Haiti to explore the role of the international community in averting civil war, we must also begin to look beyond the current crisis. For example, Haiti continues to be in dire need of food aid and medical assistance. The current unrest could set off an exodus of refugees. Furthermore, there is an uncertainty as to the timing and fairness of the next elections is promoting suspicions and instability. We must anticipate the work that will have to be done in order to

effectively and humanely process the imminent influx of refugees by improving our immigration screening and detention processes.

I do not believe that Haitian refugees receive a fair chance to satisfy the requirements for entitlement to an asylum hearing. Also, I am disturbed by the lack of parity between the Haitian refugees and the Cuban refugees. While Haitian refugees are detained and then removed from the United States, Cuban refugees who reach American soil are welcomed. They are admitted or paroled into the United States, and a year later they are eligible for adjustment of status to that of lawful permanent residents. This difference in treatment is unfair and unjustifiable.

I will support a bill sponsored by our colleague Mr. MEEK of Florida to designate Haiti under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow Haitian refugees to obtain Temporary Protective Status (TPS). I have signed on to join my brother today in fact to take leadership in this crisis.

Furthermore, I will introduce a piece of legislation, the "Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2003." Section 502 of this bill responds to Attorney General Ashcroft's decision in *Matter of D-J-*, 23 I&N Dec. 572 (AG 2003), in which he denied bond release to a Haitian on the ground that giving bond to undocumented refugees who come to the United States by sea would cause adverse consequences for national security and sound immigration policy.

This legislation would permit the adjustment of status for Haitians who meet the following categories: (1) The individual would have to be a native or citizen of Haiti; (2) the individual would have to have been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States; and (3) the individual would have to have been physically present in the United States for at least 1 year.

The Caucus advocates positive action by the U.S. Government to support peaceful and democratic efforts to alleviate the violent and unsanitary conditions to prevent the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Collaboration by and assistance from the United Nations will be key in the effort to stimulate the participation of the international community. The Haitian people must implement the organic constitutional and democratic principles to indicate its contrition and willingness to effect change. With the plan to institute a democratic form of governance must accompany maintenance of the rule of law so as to ensure the development of a framework of fundamental rights. Violence will not bring about peace, but fair and transparent electoral process will.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that our words are heard and that this Nation will move to end this problem before a full-scale civil war results. Action today will translate into an investment that will benefit innocent Haitian lives and the immigration challenges that do not diminish. I urge this administration to do the right thing and to provide the humanitarian aid and security provisions necessary to save these lives.

And as the song by the great Ben E. King goes:

Oh, stand by me
Oh stand, stand by me, stand by me
If the sky that we look upon
Should tumble and fall
Or the mountain
Should crumble to the sea

I won't cry, I won't cry
No, I won't shed a tear
Just as long as you stand
Stand by me

WE CAN NEVER SAY ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, much has been said, but then you can never say enough when the lives of thousands of people are at stake. You can never say enough when bloodshed is imminent, when chaos is all around.

I have been told that the primary responsibility of leadership is to lead, and I want to commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for his leadership on this and many other issues with which we have been confronted. Recognize that in times of crisis you have to act; you have to do something. You cannot just sit back and wait and hope.

So, Mr. President, I join with all of my colleagues. I join with those in the international community, those who expect this country, a world leader, to take the initiative and the responsibility to lead, to bring together international thought, international action, establish a real presence in Haiti, establish a presence that will say to the people, come and let us reason together. Otherwise the whole island may be utterly destroyed by the edge of the sword; if not the sword, then the MIs, the grenades, the homemade bombs.

Mr. Speaker, this is a situation where it is difficult to see how our country, the United States of America, the protector, guarantor of rights, if we do not see the humaneness of intervention, and we are not talking about intervention to take over, we are not talking about being oppressive, we are talking about enough presence to settle the climate, to create the environment where people can at least sit at the table, work out an agreement, settle in.

So, Mr. President, I hope that you have heard what my colleagues have been saying. I hope that you and your advisers are listening, and I hope that you understand that the fate of a Nation is actually hanging in the balance, and to imagine that we have the power, we have the ability to save that Nation.

I think it is our duty, it is our responsibility, it is our heritage. It is only what could be expected of a Nation that wants to be the leading Nation of the world. Then we have to take that responsibility. We have to lead, and the best way to demonstrate leadership is to send in enough force to have a presence to bring about a peaceful solution to this imminent bloodbath that is about to occur.

□ 2115

Please, Mr. President, listen to the voices of reason and take action now.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. CARSON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FROST, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELLER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TERRY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MURPHY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today. Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House Reports that on February 24, 2004 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 743. To amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with representative payees, to enhance program protections, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 26, 2004, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 108th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

BEN CHANDLER, Kentucky 6th.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6786. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to inform Congress of the decision to deploy a security force to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to augment the Embassy security forces, pursuant to Public Law 93-148; (H. Doc. No. 108-163;) to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6787. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Salvage and Marine Firefighting Requirements; Vessel Response Plans for Oil [USCG-1998-3417] (RIN: 1625-AA19) received February 4, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6788. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Caloosahatchee River Bridge (SR 29), Okeechobee Waterway, Labelle, Florida. [CGD07-02-141] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received February 4, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6789. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Handling of Class 1 (Explosive) Materials or Other Dangerous Cargoes Within or Contiguous to Waterfront Facilities [USCG-1998-4302] (RIN: 1625-AA07) received February 4, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6790. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Regulated Navigation Areas, San Francisco Bay, CA [CGD11-03-001] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received February 23, 2004,